

- fossil energy
- environmental
- energy efficiency
- WVDO

I-79 CORRIDOR PROJECT: CLEAN CITIES INITIATIVE

States Impacted:

Pennsylvania, West Virginia

Benefit Areas:

Alternative Fuels,
Transportation, Economic
Development

Participants:

West Virginia Development
Office (WVDO), Equitable
Gas Company, West Virginia
University (WVU), Hope Gas
Incorporated, O'Green
Compressor Corporation

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Description

The I-79 Project, Clean Cities Initiative is a partnership among federal and state governments, academia, and the private sector. In 1997, a partnership among the West Virginia Development Office (WVDO), Equitable Gas Company, West Virginia University (WVU), Hope Gas Incorporated, O'Green Compressor Corporation, and the Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC) developed a proposal to respond to the Clean Cities Natural Gas Vehicle Initiative.

The partnership is increasing the use of compressed natural gas as a transportation fuel in the region adjacent to Interstate 79 between Charleston, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. West Virginia received a Clean State designation in 1994, and Pittsburgh was designated a Clean City in December 1995. The proximity of the two cities and their dependency on the I-79 Corridor, which extends directly from Charleston through Pittsburgh, provides an excellent opportunity to expand the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel in the region. The end result is the recognition and promotion of an Interstate Clean Cities corridor that is about 220 miles long. The I-79 Project is a success story and serves as a model for national strategic initiatives in alternatively fueled vehicles. The project is part of the Regional Environmental and Sustainable Energy Partnership (RESEP) initiative, developed by FETC.

Goals

The I-79 Project is designed to increase the use and importance of natural gas, an environmentally friendly regional resource, in the transportation sector.

Tangible Benefits

National: Using natural gas as a transportation fuel is both environmentally and economically in the best interest of the U.S. This project is an excellent example of how federal and state governments, academia, and the private sector can harness their expertise and work together. The I-79 Project is a national model for other states seeking to develop Clean Cities Initiatives. The activity also illustrates cooperation between the DOE Office of Fossil Energy (FE) and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE).

Regional: The partnership has stimulated an investment of \$450,000 in developing transportation-related natural gas infrastructure in West Virginia. Construction of two new natural-gas fueling stations began in 1998; they are scheduled for completion in 1999. This stretch of I-79 now has more natural-gas refueling stations per mile than any other comparable stretch of interstate highway.